

U.S. Rep. John Adler today introduced legislation to help clean Barnegat Bay and put into place a plan to ensure its long-term health, according a press release from the congressman's office.

"The continued pollution of Barnegat Bay is a potential environmental and economic disaster for Ocean County," Adler said. "Middle-class families, seniors and small businesses dependent on Barnegat Bay deserve commonsense solutions to its problems. We should all work together to restore Barnegat Bay's health."

Adler's legislation would create a competitive grant program for the 28 National Estuary programs to monitor, assess, research and restore estuaries with inefficient stormwater basins.

The bill would authorize \$20 million for a grant program for each fiscal year through 2015, applicants on behalf of estuaries would have to match 20 percent of the federal grant.

Barnegat Bay provides more than \$3.3 billion in economic benefits annually to New Jersey, according to Adler's press release.

The congressmen formed a round table on the bay's future after his election. His legislation draws on the recommendations of that roundtable, which includes environmentalists and researchers interested in the Bay's health.